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Such is a sketch of our present knowledge of the ions of the atmosphere. With the publication of Mr. Wellisch's and Mr. Sutherland's investigations we have reached a definite idea of the small ion in air—a molecule, which, as the attraction of its charge brings about collisions which would otherwise not occur, acts as if it were one of more than the normal size—the conception enabling our experience to be not only simply but exactly described. Of the large ions, no such definite picture can as yet be drawn. Ions similar in character have been observed in gases from flames and in other cases, and it is to be hoped that the material which is now being collected may soon prove sufficient, in the hands of those specially skilled in the methods of the kinetic theory of gases, for a discussion of the life history of these molecular clusters. The study of the natural ions has a special interest, as a wider determination of the facts of the ionization of the air means an advance towards a more comprehensive knowledge of atmospheric electricity.

J. A. POLLOCK

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

THE ELIZABETH THOMPSON SCIENCE FUND

THE thirty-fourth meeting of the board of trustees was held at Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Mass., on April 29, 1909. The following officers were elected:

President—Edward C. Pickering.

Treasurer—Charles S. Rackemann.

Secretary—Charles S. Minot.

It was voted to close the records of the following grants, the work having been completed and publications made: No. 115 to H. S. Carhart, and No. 128 to L. J. Henderson; and to close upon receipt of publications the accounts of the following grants: No. 96, H. E. Crampton; No. 103, E. Anding; No. 112, W. J. Moenkhaus; No. 126, L. Cuénot; and No. 132, W. G. Cady.

Reports of progress were received from the following holders of grants:

No.	No.
98. J. Weinzirl.	137. C. H. Eigenmann.
111. R. Hürthle.	138. Mme. P. Šafarik.
117. E. Salkowski and C. Neuberg.	139. J. Koenigsberger.
119. J. P. McMurrich.	140. K. E. Guthe.
123. E. C. Jeffrey.	141. J. T. Patterson.
131. F. W. Thyng.	142. W. J. Hale.
133. J. F. Shepard.	143. R. W. Wood.
135. A. Negri.	144. G. A. Hulett.
136. H. A. Kip.	145. J. de Kowalski.
	146. M. Nussbaum.

The secretary stated that during the past year no reports had been received from the following holders of grants:

22, 27. E. Hartwig.	121. A. Debierne.
109. A. Nicolas.	124. P. Bachmetjew.

It was voted to make the following new grants:

- No. 147. \$200 to Professor Johannes Müller, Mecklenburg, Germany, to investigate the physiological chemistry of inosit.
- No. 148. \$200 to Professor C. C. Nutting, Iowa City, Iowa, for a report on the Gorgonacea of the Siboya Expedition.
- No. 149. \$200 to Professor Ph. A. Guye, Geneva, Switzerland, for determinations of atomic weights.
- No. 150. \$100 to Professor Charles A. Kofoid, Berkeley, Cal., for an investigation of the life history of the Dinoflagellates.
- No. 151. \$150 to Professor Otto v. Fürth, Wien, Austria, for a research concerning the relation of the internal secretion of the pancreas to the general metabolism and especially to the combustion of carbohydrates.
- No. 152. \$150 to W. D. Hoyt, Esq., Baltimore, Md., to study the fruiting of the marine alga, *Dictyota dichotoma*.
- No. 153. \$250 to W. Dobereck, Esq., Sutton, England, for a position micrometer to be used in astronomical observations.
- No. 154. \$100 to Dr. J. P. Munson, Ellensburg, Washington, for an investigation of the minute structure of the chelonian brain.

CHARLES S. MINOT,
Secretary

THE RETIREMENT OF PRESIDENT ELIOT

THE faculty of arts and sciences of Harvard University has passed a minute on the services of President Eliot which reads as follows: